

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 061941  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:JWHITING:PS  
APPROVED BY AF:DBBOLEN  
AF/E:RSPOST  
D/HA:LARTHUR  
EUR/WE:JFDOBBINS  
S/S-S.GOLDSMITH

-----192242Z 014192 /62

R 192059Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

S E C R E T STATE 061941

EXDIS, PARIS FOR ROBERT MELONE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, US

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF FORMER ETHIOPIAN FONMIN KIFLE WODAJO

REF: (A) MONROVIA 1772 (B) STATE 38994 (BEING RPTD PARIS)

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS BEING PROVIDED TO ASSIST  
EMBASSY PARIS IN DEALING WITH FORMER ETHIOPIAN FONMIN KIFLE  
WODAJO PER REF A.

2. FOLLOWING COL. MENGISTU'S FEBRUARY 3 CONSOLIDATION OF  
POWER IN ETHIOPIA, IN WHICH CHIEF OF STATE TEFERI  
BANTI AND SIX OTHER TOP OFFICIALS OF ETHIOPIA'S PROVISIONAL  
MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) WERE KILLED, FONMIN

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KIFLE STAYED ABROAD RATHER THAN RETURN TO ADDIS ABABA FROM  
AN OAU MEETING IN LUSAKA. HE CONTACTED EMBASSY MONROVIA  
ON FEBRUARY 15. KIFLE HAS NOT PUBLICLY BROKEN WITH THE  
ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (EPMG), BUT  
AFTER ATTEMPTING TO GET KIFLE TO RETURN, EPMG HAS NOW  
REPLACED HIM AS FONMIN.

3. IN MONROVIA, KIFLE INDICATED AN INTENTION TO SEEK POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE U.S. GUIDANCE FOR DEALING WITH KIFLE WAS CONTAINED REF B. AND REFLECTED DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN THAT POTENTIAL SURFACING OF A NUMBER OF FORMER ETHIOPIAN DIPLOMATS IN THE U.S. MIGHT CAUSE DIFFICULTIES

IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA. THE EPMG CALLED HOME BY MARCH 4 ALL CHIEFS OF MISSION FOR CONSULTATION AND A PRESUMED LOYALTY REVIEW. FYI: WE KNOW OF AT LEAST SEVEN WHO HAVE OPTED NOT TO RETURN. THE AMBASSADORS TO CAIRO, BONN AND TOKYO HAVE ARRIVED IN U.S. ON NORMAL VISAS, AND TWO OF THEM ARE SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM. END FYI.

4. KIFLE EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF OUR POSITION AND ASKED FOR A LIST OF U.S. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS HE MIGHT CONTACT FOR EMPLOYMENT OR SCHOLARSHIPS. THIS WAS PROVIDED. KIFLE INDICATED APPRECIATION FOR INFORMATION AND SAID HE WOULD CONTACT BOB MELONE IN PARIS.

5. GUIDANCE CONTAINED PARA SIX REF B IS STILL VALID. WE WOULD PREFER THAT KIFLE NOT TRAVEL TO U.S. FOR A FEW MONTHS BUT USE THE TIME TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN THE U.S. AND ELSEWHERE. WHILE WE ARE NOT RPT NOT ENCOURAGING KIFLE OR OTHER ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS TO SEEK ASYLUM IN THE U.S., WE SEE NO OBVIOUS REASON WHY HE SHOULD NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN APPROPRIATE VISA IF HE OBTAINED A FELLOWSHIP OR JOB OFFER. SHOULD HE REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE U.S., MISSION SHOULD BE GUIDED BY STATE A-5895 OF SEPT. 10, 1975.

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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